



PLACES WHERE GRAVITY "FALLS UP"

Motorists driving along Croy Brae in Strathclyde, Scotland, sooner or later usually slow down - or stop completely - in utter confusion. For Croy Brae is one of the most disorienting places on earth.

Approaching the brae ("hill") from the north is an uncanny experience. The road appears to slope downward, and drivers assume that the slope will accelerate the vehicle. Yet if they slow down, they are likely to grind to a complete halt.

Despite every appearance to the contrary, the road runs uphill, not downhill. Unable to believe what has happened, many motorists stop, only to find that their cars begin to slide backward, "uphill".

Travelers who are approaching from the south experience a similar topsy-turvy sensation. Thinking they are heading uphill they accelerate - only to discover they are speeding along faster than they had intended. The road actually goes 'down'.

No one has yet been able to come up with a totally satisfactory explanation of what causes these strange effects at Croy

Brae. Whatever the explanation, the phenomenon is not unique to Croy; there are similar places all over the world. One example can be found on the road to Jerusalem near the village of Djabal Moukaber, Israel. And on Mystery Hill, a small area between Boone and Blowing rock, North Carolina, a river reportedly flows north and apple trees grow into the prevailing winds, seemingly in complete defiance of the laws of nature.

In an letter to a magazine, a British visitor to Canada described how an uncle had taken him to "a rather unusual but fascinating place" near Vancouver. "He parked his huge station wagon on a bumpy road with a steep gradient, and then took the key out of the ignition and released the handbrake. There were eight of us in the car but, to my astonishment, it nevertheless began to move - uphill. My uncle then poured some water from a nearby stream onto the surface of the road, and this too began to flow uphill."

The best-known example in North America is Magnetic Hill at Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. According to local legend, its mysterious properties were first noticed in the 1930's when a milkman stopped his horse and cart at the bottom to make a delivery. When he

returned, to his astonishment he found that both horse and cart had drifted halfway "up" the hill.

US JUDGE WITH WEATHER CONTROL?

San Francisco: - A judge who ordered the rain to stop in 1986, at the beginning of California's five-year drought, recently rescinded that order - and it has poured ever since.

District Judge Samuel King, annoyed by jurors being unable to attend his court because of heavy rains, declared in 1986: "I hereby order that it cease raining by Tuesday. Let's see how that works."

It worked so well the state is now in its fifth year of severe drought.

Reminded recently of his motion, Judge King proclaimed, tongue-in-cheek: "I hereby rescind my order of 1986 and order that rain shall fall."

On that day, a fierce storm drenched California with more than 100mm of rain. Two smaller storms have added another 75mm, and rain and winds continued yesterday.

UFO SIGHTINGS MORE FREQUENT IN QUEENSLAND SAYS RESEARCH CENTRE

Of the 150 sightings reported to the UFO Research Centre in Qld last year, more than two thirds, or 110, came from folk living in central Queensland.

NSW residents reported only 40 sightings.

It should be added that the number of people who do not report sightings is significantly higher than those who do.

MISSING PERSONS - WHERE DO THEY GO?

According to a newspaper clipping sent to me (Daily Telegraph/Mirror 11.7.90 p12) "More than 4,000 people have been reported missing this year in NSW alone".

Now, if that clipping is dated 11th July, that works out at nearly 21 people disappearing per day, from NSW alone!

Even supposing the clipping is dated the 7th of November 1990, it still means that over 12 people a day disappear in NSW alone!

The person who sent in this clipping wrote alongside the article - "missing or UFO snack food?"

(I had to chuckle. Ed.)

UFO'S OVER LIBYA?

You would be amazed at what information I get to hear. On an overseas trip a few years ago, I had a chance to speak to several Libyans.

The magazine I was representing at the time, had recently published a small article covering UFO's. This caught their eye, and I was promptly told of a very large UFO that hovered over Tripoli one night.

Guess which night that was? It was the night that the U.S.A bombed Libya, in

apparent retaliation for a bombed disco in Berlin.

Was it a coincidence that the US launched one of its largest every military missions, on the night that many Libyans were watching a huge stationary UFO hovering over their capital city.

What is even more bizarre are the rumours that Colonel Gaddafi completely "disappeared" during the raid, prompting initial reports that he may have been killed.

Some suggest (very privately) that he was 'taken aboard' the mysterious craft.

Whatever the case, I am still suspicious of the suddenness and the size of the US attack, coincidental with such stories.

UNUSUAL DISAPPEARANCES & APPEARANCES OF PEOPLE

This subcategory contains 120 cases involved with disappearances or appearances of people under circumstances that have been considered unusual. The former type of phenomenon is by far the most frequent; appearances in this division are rare. Most of the cases in this subcategory involve groups of people, eg armies, ship's crews, etc. Their common feature is the relatively short period of time in which the large number of disappearances took place. In some cases involving disappearing ships' crews, boarding parties discovered hot food still in the galley or warm coffee still in the cups. Sample cases included:

1. _,1850/ Easton Beach, Rhode Island/ the Seabird found; crew missing.
2. 1858/Saigon, Vietnam/ 650 French troops disappear.
3. August, 1869/ Cork, Ireland/ 13 children about the same age disappear
4. January, 1874/ Paris, France (area)/ repeated disappearances of young men.
5. 23 September, 1880/ Gallatin, Tennessee/ case of David Lang; walks into a field and disappears
6. July, 1883/ Montreal, Quebec, Canada / unaccountable disappearances of many men.
7. 23 November, 1886/ Edina, Missouri/ 3 boys and father hit by lightning; one of them 'disappears'
8. January, 1888/ Connecticut/ sudden

appearance of several 'wild men'; speaking gibberish

9. 24 December, 1890/ South Bend, Indiana/ another case of man disappearing into thin air in view of witnesses

10. January, 1905/ In different parts of England/ sudden appearance of 10 wild men, speaking gibberish.

11. 28 August, 1915/ Constantinople, Turkey/ entire regiment seen to disappear into strange clouds that descended to earth.

12. October, 1955/ Fiji Islands/ disappearance of crew from the Joyita

13. 30 July, 1960/ Picton Ontario/ thirteen year old boy disappears in spot; found in same spot five days later; amnesia of days missing.

(From Chapter 10, of "Space-Time Transients & Unusual Events" by Michael A. Persinger & Gyslaine F. Lafre-niere. Published by Nelson-Hall, Chicago 1977)

SUPERNATURAL KIDNAPPERS?

A terrified father has told police of his ordeal where he fought to rescue his screaming two year old son from the clutches of a ghost.

Mr Martin Rivers of Westcliff-on-Sea, in Essex, UK claimed he grappled with the male spook after finding his son floating 5 feet in the air in his bedroom.

Police say they are taking the story seriously and are looking for an exorcist to visit the house. A spokesperson said: "We are satisfied he had a supernatural experience." He added that Mr Rivers claimed the spirit threw furniture around and hurled the family dog into a cupboard.

Mr Rivers and his son were alone in the terraced house while his wife was in hospital having a baby. They have now moved out.

LOTTERY WINNER STRIKES TWICE!

A lucky man in Wellington, New Zealand recently collected winnings of more than \$A250,000 from the NZ Lotteries Commission.

As he left he joked "see you next week". He did. The next week he returned to collect half-share of \$A207,000.